

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace ¶ [0001] (p. 1, lines 6-13) with the following:

[0001] The present invention relates to a speed change gear for an automatic transmission. The speed change gear has an arrangement of a speed reduction planetary gear set for reducing a rotation from a power source (engine and the like) and a latter speed change mechanism for inputting the thus reduced rotation. The speed reduction planetary gear set includes a ring gear having an outer periphery which is provided with a direct clutch for transmitting ~~at a constant speed~~ the rotation from the power source (engine and the like) to the latter speed change mechanism.

Please replace ¶ [0009] (p. 3, lines 2-28) with the following:

[0009] According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a speed change gear for an automatic transmission. The speed change gear ~~comprises;~~ includes: 1) an input portion for inputting an input rotation from a power source; 2) an output portion disposed substantially coaxially with the input portion and outputting an output rotation of the speed change gear; and 3) a plurality of planetary gear sets including a compound planetary gear set, the plurality of the planetary gear sets providing a plurality of power conductive paths to an area defined between the input portion and the output portion. The plurality of the planetary gear sets ~~comprises;~~ includes: a first clutch; a second clutch; a third clutch; a first brake; and a second brake. The clutches and the brakes are configured to be selectively ~~connected and disconnected~~ engaged and disengaged in such a manner that ~~the plurality of~~ the planetary gear sets change a rotation from the input portion at a corresponding gear change ratio by selecting one of the plurality of the power conductive paths, thereby outputting the thus changed rotation to the output portion. ~~The clutch and the brake make a combination of engagement and disengagement. The combination makes a selection from~~ Combinations of engaged clutches and brakes and combinations of multiple engaged clutches define at least six successive forward gears and one reverse gear. One of the plurality of the planetary gear sets is a speed reduction planetary gear set for continuously reducing the input rotation and outputting the thus reduced rotation. ~~The clutch comprises; two clutches including a~~ In the first through the fifth forward gears, the first clutch and a second and/or the second clutch for connecting and disconnecting is/are engaged to transfer the reduced rotation

from the speed reduction planetary gear set to the compound planetary gear set. The third clutch, -set, and a third clutch which is a direct clutch for outputting the input rotation ~~at a constant speed~~ to the compound planetary gear set, ~~the third clutch being~~ is disposed radially outward relative to a first ring gear of the speed reduction planetary gear set. The first ring gear has an outer periphery ~~which~~ that is provided with a clutch hub. The clutch hub constitutes the direct clutch and is an input member to the third clutch.

Please replace ¶ [0029]-[0030] (p. 6, line 30 – p. 7, line 7) with the following:

[0029] ~~Hereinabove, the~~ The center member CM is ~~so disposed to~~ disposed so as to pass through a space ~~which~~ that is defined on a circle formed with pitches arranged on the third pinion P3 and ~~which~~ that is defined between the adjacent third pinions P3. The center member CM is ~~so disposed~~ disposed so as to extend radially inward from between the third sun gear S3 and the fourth sun gear S4.

[0030] The input portion INPUT is constituted of the input shaft 1. ~~Connecting the~~ The connection of the input shaft 1 to the first ring gear R1 and ~~connecting the~~ connection of the input shaft 1 to an engine (not shown), which acts as power source via a torque converter (not shown) ~~allow~~ shown, allows the engine speed to be inputted from the input shaft 1 to the first ring gear R1.

Please replace ¶ [0034] (p. 7, lines 25-29) with the following:

[0029] The center member CM of the third planetary carrier PC3 is adapted to be connected to the input shaft 1 by the third clutch C3, thus allowing the third clutch C3 to act as a direct clutch outputting the input rotation to a compound planetary gear set (including the second planetary gear set G2 and the third planetary gear set ~~G3~~) ~~at a constant speed (namely, no speed change).~~ G3).